

Fulbright Asks Bombing Halt, Hits CIA's Role

By DANIEL MASON

SEN. J. W. FULBRIGHT (D-Ark), last Sunday warned against the Johnson administration's dependence on military power to solve the Vietnam crisis. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, declared that only political and social settlements in Vietnam, "could finally bring stability in that area."

He called for an extended halt in U.S. bombing of North Vietnam to clear the way for negotiations.

He devoted much of his TV interview to a denunciation of the vast increase in the control of U.S. foreign policy by the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

He was critical of the dominance by the Defense Department over the State Department, which, by law and tradition, is responsible for U.S. foreign policy.

"The military, our tradition is, should be subject to civilian policy-makers, and the CIA is supposed to be an intelligence agency only and not an operating agency in the execution of foreign policy," he asserted.

This view undoubtedly coincides with the views of some elements in the State Department who have become worried by the dangers involved in the escalation of the Vietnam war as the result of this military domination.

The dominant role of the mili-

tary in foreign-policy-making inadvertently was underscored in the report last week of the arrest of an Army colonel by Washington police on charges of drunkenness and carrying a dangerous weapon without a license. The man, Col. Charles S. Cummings, jr., who was found slumped over the wheel of his auto, with two loaded pistols, it was revealed, is a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Council, its top foreign-policy making group. The Policy Planning Council analyzes all foreign policy problems and is decisive in making long-range international policy for the U.S.

Colonel Cummings, who is attached to the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, had been assigned by the Defense Department to this State Department body.

INFLUENCE

When Fulbright was asked, in his TV interview, whether he believed the Defense Department and the CIA "have a decisive influence" in making U.S. policy in Vietnam, he replied that he thought it "very great."

"I would prefer that the civilian agencies be the major and decisive influence," he emphasized. He insisted that only political and social settlements in Vietnam "will finally bring about some stability in that area."

Two days earlier, Fulbright

the nation about the role of the military and the CIA. He declared:

"Many of the letters I received expressed concern about the role of the Department of Defense and the role of the CIA in the conduct of American foreign policy."

Asked whether "an imbalance" had come about between the State and Defense Department, Fulbright asserted:

"I think this has been developing."

The Defense Department now gets half of all Federal money, Fulbright noted, adding that Defense Secretary Robert McNamara "is an extremely able man with great persuasive powers."

He said he would remind Johnson "of the Defense Department's enormous influence throughout the country through the great, enormous contracts and business they do."

Some elements in the government — those want a negotiated settlement in Vietnam — are now beginning to worry about the countrywide influence of the military and their friends in big business and among the ultra-Right and racists. They believe that in the coming months, pressures upon the Johnson administration for further escalation of the Vietnam war will skyrocket. Their apprehension is reported in last Monday's Washington Post by Murray, a staff